

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide prepared by a process comprising the step of esterification reacting (A) an organopolysiloxane having residual carboxylic anhydride groups and (B) a polysaccharide having hydroxyl groups, wherein the organopolysiloxane is bonded to the polysaccharide through half ester groups.

2. (Original) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein component (A) is an organopolysiloxane having the formula, $R^1_a R^2_b SiO_{(4-a-b)/2}$

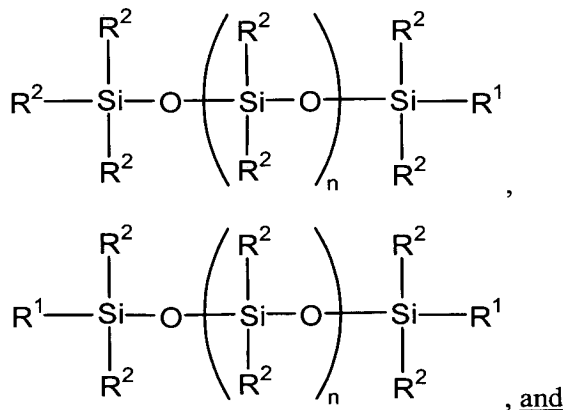
where R^1 is a monovalent organic group containing a residual carboxylic anhydride,

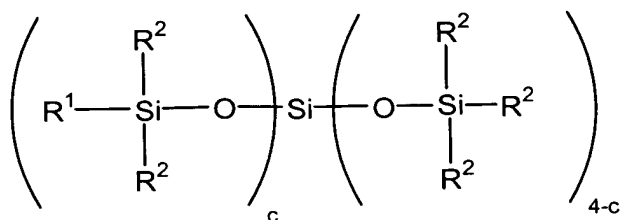
R^2 is a hydrogen atom or monovalent hydrocarbon group

with the proviso that at least one R^2 is a monovalent hydrocarbon when b is greater than 1,

and the subscripts "a" and "b" are numbers satisfying the conditions $0 < a \leq 1$, and $0 < b \leq 3$, respectively, and $0 < a + b < 4$.

3. (Currently Amended) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein component (A) is an organopolysiloxane having the formula selected from the group of;





where R¹ is a monovalent organic group containing a residual carboxylic anhydride group,

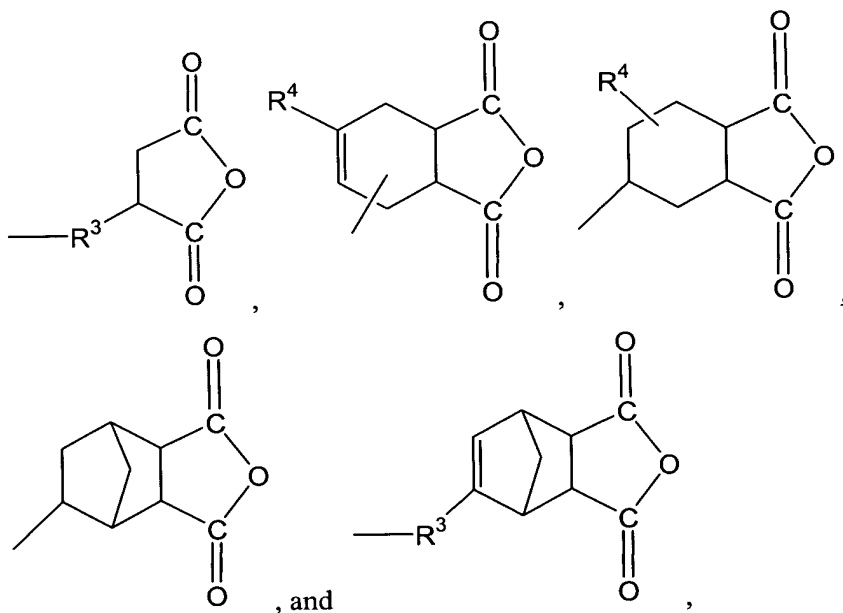
R² is a hydrogen atom or monovalent hydrocarbon group,

with the proviso that at least one R² is a monovalent hydrocarbon,

n is an integer greater than zero, and

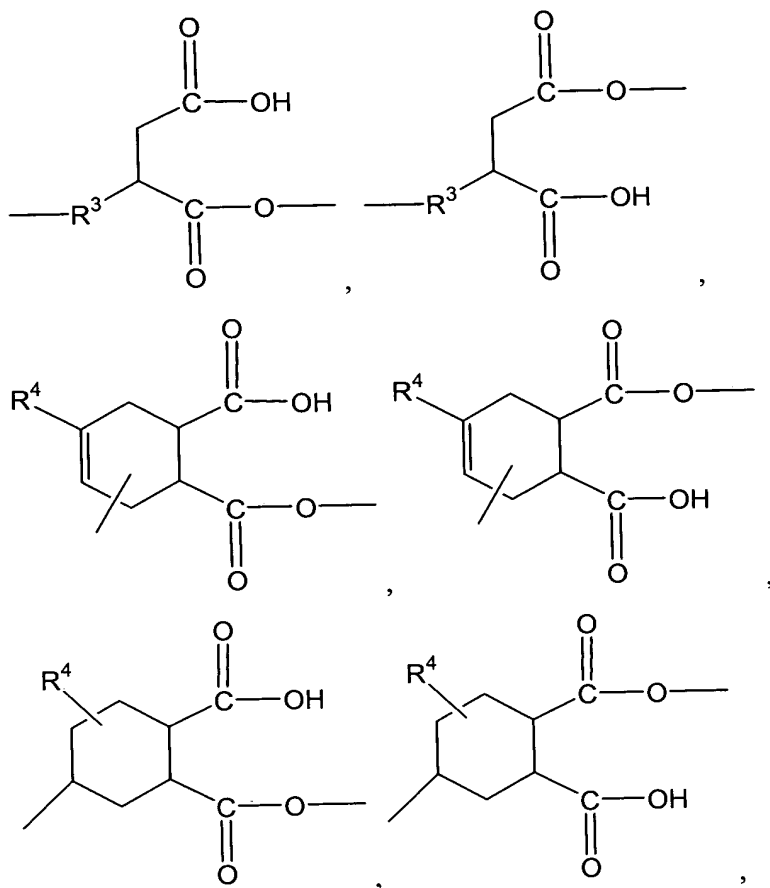
c is an integer from 1 to 4.

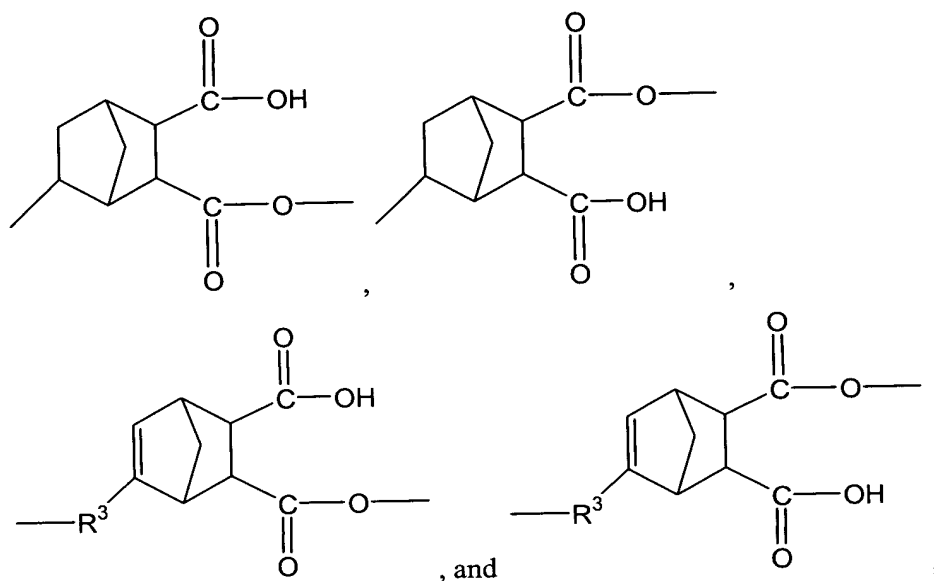
4. (Currently Amended) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 2 [[or 3]], wherein the residual carboxylic anhydride has a formula selected from the group[:]] of:



where R³ is a divalent hydrocarbon group, and R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or alkyl group.

5. (Currently Amended) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein the half ester group has a formula selected from the group of;





where R^3 is a divalent hydrocarbon group, and R^4 is a hydrogen atom or alkyl group.

6. (Currently Amended) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein component (B) is selected from the group of [[a]] ligneous polysaccharides, polysaccharides obtained from fruit flesh and rhizome, plant adhesive substances, legume-derived polysaccharides, seaweed-derived polysaccharides, microorganism-produced polysaccharides, polysaccharides of animal origin, or a derivative of these polysaccharides.

7. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide, said process comprising the step of esterification reacting;

(A) an organopolysiloxane having residual carboxylic anhydride groups, and

(B) a polysaccharide having hydroxyl groups,

in the presence of

(C) a non-protonic polar solvent.

8. (Original) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 7, wherein component (A) is an organopolysiloxane having the formula, $R^1_a R^2_b SiO_{(4-a-b)/2}$

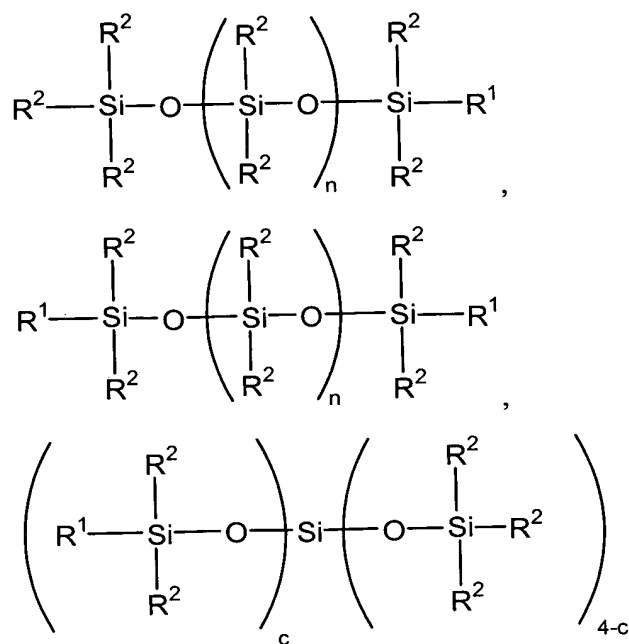
where R^1 is a monovalent organic group containing a residual carboxylic anhydride,

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or monovalent hydrocarbon group

with the proviso that at least one R^2 is a monovalent hydrocarbon when b is greater than 1,

and the subscripts "a" and "b" are numbers satisfying the conditions $0 < a \leq 1$, and $0 < b \leq 3$, respectively, and $0 < a + b < 4$.

9. (Currently Amended) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 7, wherein component (A) is an organopolysiloxane having the formula selected from the group of:



where R^1 is a monovalent organic group containing a residual carboxylic anhydride group,

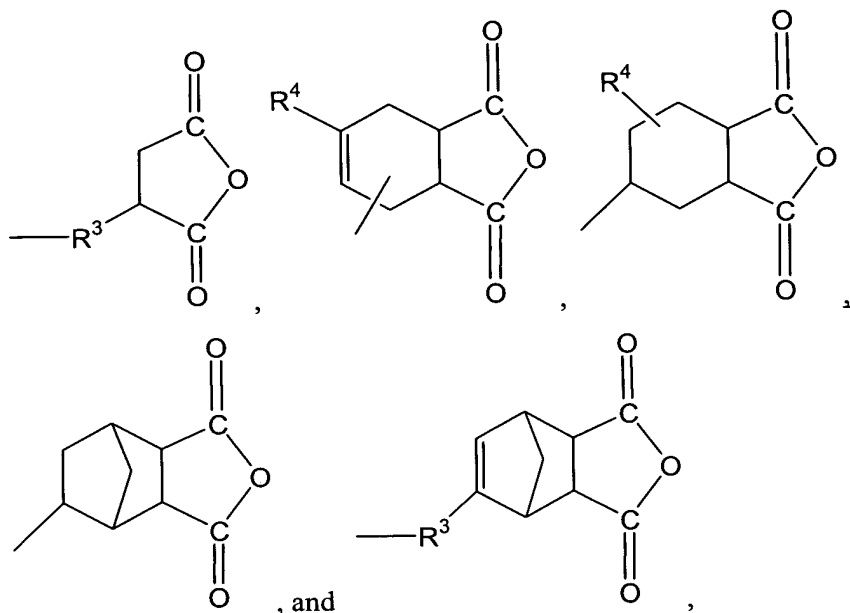
R^2 is a hydrogen atom or monovalent hydrocarbon group,

with the proviso that at least one R^2 is a monovalent hydrocarbon,

n is an integer greater than zero, and

c is an integer from 1 to 4.

10. (Currently Amended) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 8 [[or 9]], wherein the residual carboxylic anhydride has a formula selected from the group[[:]] of:



where R^3 is a divalent hydrocarbon group, and R^4 is a hydrogen atom or alkyl group.

11. (Currently Amended) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 7, wherein component (B) is selected from the group of [[a]] ligneous polysaccharides, polysaccharides obtained from fruit flesh and rhizome, plant adhesive substances, legume-derived polysaccharides, seaweed-derived polysaccharides, microorganism-produced polysaccharides, polysaccharides of animal origin, or a derivative of these polysaccharides.

12. (Original) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 7, wherein component (C) is *N,N*-dimethylacetamide, *N,N*-dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, or hexamethylphosphortriamide.

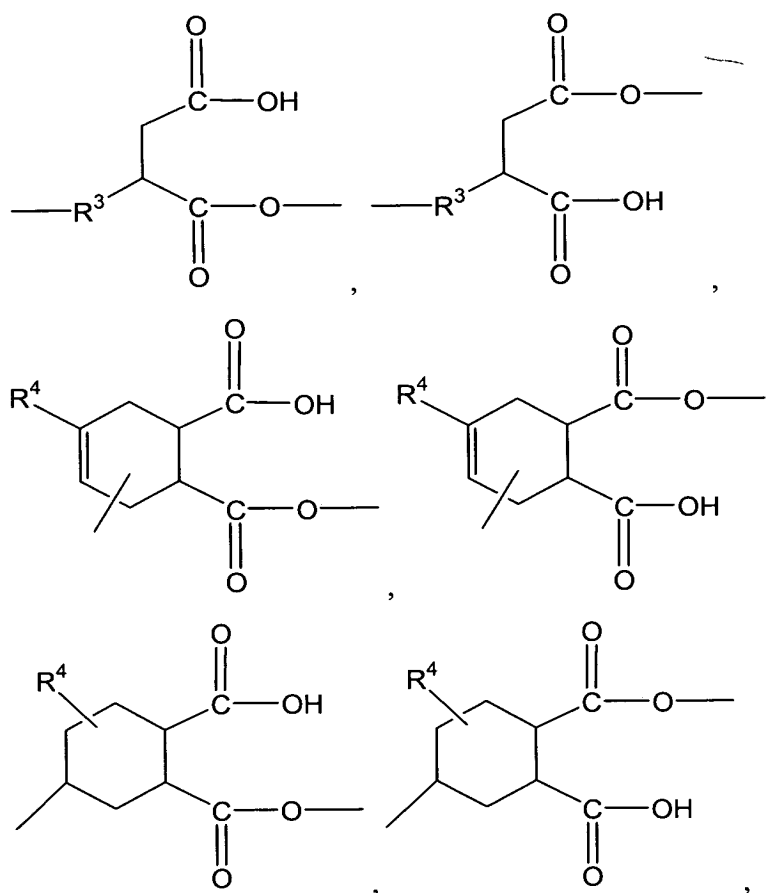
Please add the following new claims.

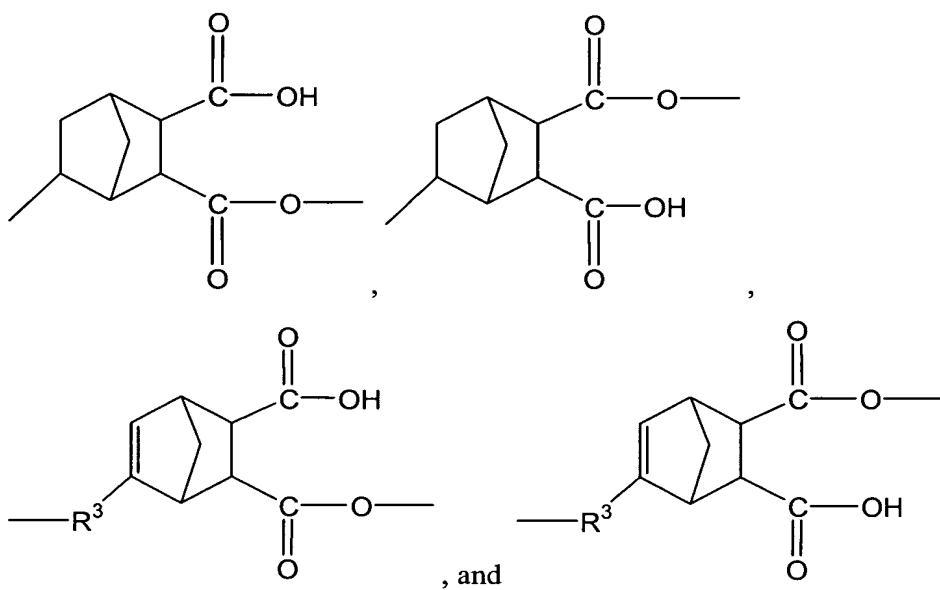
13. (New) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein components (A) and (B) are esterification reacted in the presence of (C) a non-protonic polar solvent.

14. (New) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 13, wherein component (C) is *N,N*-dimethylacetamide, *N,N*-dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, or hexamethylphosphortriamide.

15. (New) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 7, wherein the organopolysiloxane is bonded to the polysaccharide through half ester groups.

16. (New) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 15, wherein the half ester group has a formula selected from the group of;





where R^3 is a divalent hydrocarbon group, and R^4 is a hydrogen atom or alkyl group.